

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DR. ROBERT SPADARO FILES WRIT AGAINST PRESIDENT FORD ET AL

1. LOCAL PRESS, BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, JULY 7 CARRIED FRONT-PAGE STORIES DESCRIBING A WRIT FILED WITH THE HONG KONG HIGH COURT AGAINST THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND TWO MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF BY AN AMERICAN CITIZEN RESIDENT IN HONG KONG, DR. ROBERT SPADARO. THE STORIES NOTED THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SUCH A WRIT HAS BEEN REGISTERED AGAINST AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT IN A HONG KONG COURT.

2. HERewith THE OPENING PARAGRAPHS OF THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST STROY WHICH ARE SIMILAR TO REPORTS IN OTHER PAPERS. QUOTE

DR. ROBERT SPADARO, A LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AT UNITED COLLEGE, CHINESE UNIVERSITY, REGISTERED HIS STATEMENT OF CLAIM AGAINST THE PRESIDENT AND HIS DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PERSONNEL OFFICE, MR. DOUGLAS P. BENNETT, AND WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL, MR. PHILIP W. BUCHEN.

THE WRIT CLAIMS THAT AS A RESULT OF THE PRESIDENT'S DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY PERMITTING HARASSMENT OF DR. SPADARO, MR. BENNETT'S BREACH OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES IN OFFICE, AND MR. BUCHEN'S ABUSE OF HIS OFFICE, DR. SPADARO AND HIS WIFE WERE CAUSED MENTAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANGUISH AND DAMAGE TO HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER.

DR. SPADARO HOLDS PRESIDENT GERALD FORD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT ORDER, ISSUED IN THE U.S. THIS YEAR, PROHIBITING HARASSMENT OF PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZENS OVERSEAS.

DR. SPADARO HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPORTED AS CLAIMING THAT HE HAS RECEIVED (IN HONG KONG) A NUMBER OF THREATENING TELEPHONE CALLS, WARNING HIM TO STOP QUESTIONING THE PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEE SYSTEM, AND TO STOP WRITING TO THE WHITE HOUSE CHARGING SEVERAL STAFF MEMBERS WITH APPARENT CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN REGARD TO JOBS AT A SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL. UNQUOTE

3. THE STORY GOES ON TO DESCRIBE IN SOMEWHAT CONFUSED DETAIL CERTAIN OF DR. SPADARO'S ALLEGATIONS AND NOTES HIS STATEMENT THAT HE HAS A LAWYER IN MINNEAPOLIS, MISS VIVIAN KAVANAUGH, WHO WOULD PROCEED WITH THE CASE IN THE U.S. IF INSTRUCTED BY DR. SPADARO. THE STORY CONCLUDES: QUOTE

ACCORDING TO DR. SPADARO, THE PRESIDENT AND HIS ADVISERS HAVE THE CHOICE OF ENGAGING A LOCAL LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE IN HONG KONG FOR THEIR DEFENCE, INVOKING EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE IN THE UNITED STATE, OR IGNORING THE WRIT.

IF THEY CHOSE TO IGNORE THE WRIT, DR. SPADARO SAID, THE COURT WOULD CONSIDER THE CASE CEDED TO DR. SPADARO WITHIN A SPECIFIED TIME UNDER BRITISH LAW. UNQUOTE

4. COMMENT: SOURCES FAMILIAR WITH HONG KONG LAW ADVISE US THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE A) HOW THE WRIT CAN BE SERVED ON THE DEFENDANTS, B) HOW THE HONG KONG COURTS COULD HAVE JURISDICTION OVER THE SUBJECT MATTER, AND C) HOW DR. SPADARO CAN OVERCOME THE PROBLEM OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY. WE INTEND TO MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE UNLESS THE COMPLAINT IS SERVED ON US, IN WHICH CASE WE WILL FORWARD IT TO THE DEPARTMENT.

5. FYI: THE IDENTIFICATION OF DR. SPADARO AS A LECTURER AT CHINESE UNIVERSITY IS INACCURATE. HE HELD SUCH A POSITION UP UNTIL SOME TWO MONTHS AGO WHEN HIS CONTRACT WAS TERMINATED BEFORE ITS COMPLETION BY THE UNIVERSITY'S VICE CHANCELLOR. CONGEN HAS RECEIVED QUERIES FROM LOCAL AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS (UPI, AND NBC) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO WHICH WE HAVE RESPONDED THAT DR. SPADARO HAS DISCUSSED HIS GRIEVANCES WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS HERE BUT, BEYOND THIS, WE HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT TO MAKE. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THESE CORRESPONDENTS DO NOT PLACE MUCH CREDENCE IN DR. SPADARO'S STORY AND, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, HAVE NOT FILED IT BACK TO THEIR HOME OFFICES. END FYI.
CROSS

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